

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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R 131600Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6658
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG, IS, UR, XF, AG
SUBJECT: ALGERIA'S BOUMEDIENE ARRIVES IN MOSCOW

SUMMARY: ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUMEDINE ARRIVED IN MOSCOW
ON JANUARY 12. SOVIET PRESS REPORTING INDICATES THAT
THE MAIN TOPIC OF CONVERSATION IS ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN
CONTACTS. THUS FAR BREZHNEV HAS NOT SEEN BOUMEDIENE AND
IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER HE WILL SEE HIM. END SUMMARY.

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1. PRAVDA OF JANUARY 13 REPORTS ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW ON
PREVIOUS DAY OF ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE, WHO WAS
MET AT THE AIRPORT BY KOSYGIN, GROMYKO, FIRST DEPUTY
CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME SOVIET KUZNETSOV, DEPUTY
MINISTER OF DEFENSE OGARKOV, AND DEPUTY MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ILICHEV. KOSYGIN, SUSLOV AND
GROMYKO PARTICIPATED IN SUBSEQUENT TALKS WITH

BOUMEDIENE. THESE TALKS WERE REPORTED TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF "FRIENDSHIP, TRUST AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING" AND COVERED QUESTIONS OF A BILATERAL NATURE AS WELL AS VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS. PARTICULAR ATTENTION WAS DEVOTED TO THE MIDDLE EAST, WHERE THE POSITIONS OF THE TWO SIDES SHOWED "COMPLETE CORRESPONDENCE."

2. KOSYGIN'S SPEECH AT A DINNER HONORING BOUMEDIENE COVERED FAMILIAR SOVIET THEMES ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA. EGYPT WAS ACCUSED OF FOLLOWING A COURSE OF ONE-SIDED CONCESSIONS LEADING TO A SEPARATE DEAL WITH ISRAEL, I.E., OF "GROVELLING BEFORE THE AGRESSOR." ISRAEL, "AND THOSE WHO SUPPORT IT," SEEK TO PRESERVE AS MUCH OF THE GAINS OF 1967 AS POSSIBLE. KOSYGIN CALLED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL INTERESTED PARTIES, INCLUDING THE PLO, AND SAID THAT THE USSR CONTINUES TO FAVOR THE CONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. ON AFRICA, KOSYGIN CONDEMNED "IMPERIALISM AND OTHER REACTIONARY FORCES," SPOKE OUT AGAINST SOMALI TERRITORIAL CLAIMS AGAINST ETHIOPIA, AND CALLED FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOMALI FORCES FROM ETHIOPIA. IN RESPONSE, BOUMEDIENE HAILED SOVIET SUPPORT FROM THE ARAB CAUSE AND SAID THAT THE USSR "WILL ALWAYS REMAIN A FRIEND OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARABS".

3. UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES BOUMEDIENE WOULD SEE BREZHNEV BUT HAS NOT DONE SO THUS FAR. IN HIS DINNER SPEECH KOSYGIN GREETED BOUMEDIENE IN THE NAME OF BREZHNEV, AND THIS MAY HAVE TO SUFFICE FOR THE ALGERIANS GIVEN BREZHNEV'S APPARENT RELAPSE IN HIS BOUT WITH THE FLU.

4. COMMENT: SINCE BOUMEDIENE HAS JUST VISITED OTHER ARAB CAPITALS HE CAN FILL THE SOVIETS IN ON EFFORTS TO PRESENT A UNITED FRONT AGAINST THE SADAT-BEGIN TALKS. THE SOVIET PRESS CONTINUES TO CALL ON THE ARABS TO UNITE IN OPPOSITION TO THESE TALKS, BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT THE SOVIETS CONTINUE TO BE DISAPPOINTED IN THE DISARRAY IN THE ARAB RANKS. THE ALGERIANS HAVE ALSO PROBABLY RAISED THE WESTERN SAHARA, BUT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD WANT TO COMMIT THEMSELVES ON YET ANOTHER ISSUE ON WHICH THE ARABS ARE NOT UNITED.
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